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International cooperation against the world drug problem

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/211, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The report provides an overview of the world drug situation and the implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control, taking into account the thematic areas addressed by the Assembly in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem" (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex). Thematic areas include health-related issues and drug-related crime, cross-cutting issues such as human rights, new trends in addressing the world drug problem and international cooperation on development-oriented drug policy. The report also presents information on the follow-up action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies as well as on technical support provided to Member States in the respective thematic areas by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and on collaboration and coordination across the United Nations system in the global efforts to implement the recommendations adopted at the thirtieth special session.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/211, provides an overview of the current world drug situation and information on the work undertaken in assisting Member States towards advancing the implementation of the international drug control conventions, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem".[1]

2. The report, following the structure of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, showcases action taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in close cooperation and coordination with other entities of the United Nations system, as well as with relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental stakeholders, towards improving the normative, institutional and operational capacity of Member States at the national, regional and global levels, within the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

II. Extent of the world drug problem

3. With an estimated quarter of a billion people, or around 5 per cent of the adult population, using drugs at least once in 2015, the extent of drug use among the world population has remained stable over the past five years. The use of opioids remains the main cause of harm to health, with new trends showing an increased global opium production and a more diversified opioid market featuring a combination of internationally controlled substances, notably heroin, and prescription medicines that are either diverted from the legal market or produced as counterfeit medicines on a large scale. In many subregions, an increasingly complex relationship between the use of heroin and synthetic opioids is being observed.

4. Data on drug production, trafficking and use point to an overall expansion of the market for cocaine worldwide. Cocaine use appears to be increasing in the two largest markets, namely North America and Europe. In 2015, global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants reached a record high. The regions of North America and East and South-East Asia continued to account for the majority of global seizures of methamphetamine. Amphetamine has long been a prominent feature of synthetic drug markets in the Near and Middle East and Western and Central Europe, but seizures are increasing in South-Eastern Europe, and the quantities of amphetamine seized in Central America have increased since 2014.

5. New psychoactive substances belonging to diverse chemical groups continue to emerge worldwide. By December 2016, the UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances had registered the emergence of more than 739 substances in 106 Member States and territories. Since UNODC began its monitoring efforts, the number of new psychoactive substances reported each year has increased, reaching almost 500 different substances in 2015.

6. Drug flows continue to be in a constant state of flux. With the changes brought by globalization and the spread of new communication technologies, drug flows are more than ever characterized by rapid changes in trafficking routes, modus operandi and concealment methods. An alternative branch of the "Balkan route", through the Caucasus, has been gaining importance in recent years for the delivery of Afghan heroin to Europe. Although still comparatively low overall, there are indications that

[1] General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

cocaine consumption in several Asian countries is continuing to rise. The sale of illicit substances through the darknet continues to account for only a small percentage of drug sales, but it represents a threat, given that the market has been growing by around 50 per cent each year in recent years.

7. More information on the extent of the drug problem and the latest trends is included in the *World Drug Report 2017*, which marks 20 years of reporting by UNODC.[2]

III. International cooperation against the world drug problem

A. Follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly: action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies

8. In the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem", Member States resolved to take the necessary steps to implement the operational recommendations and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of those recommendations.

1. Action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

9. In response, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs immediately initiated an intensive follow-up process to the special session of the General Assembly, devoting equal attention to each of the seven thematic areas of the outcome document. Thematic discussions held in October 2016 and January 2017 offered opportunities to share specific experiences, lessons learned and information on concrete activities that could help to translate into action the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document. In line with its inclusive approach, the Commission invited United Nations entities and specialized agencies, as well as international, regional and non-governmental organizations, to actively participate in the follow-up. The thematic discussions enjoyed the broad participation of Member States; United Nations entities, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat; regional organizations, including the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); and non-governmental organizations, who participated in person or remotely through videoconferences.

10. Member States also used intersessional meetings of the Commission and informal gatherings to discuss preparations for 2019, which has been set as the target date in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. As a result, at its sixtieth session in March 2017, the Commission adopted resolution 60/1, in which it decided to convene a ministerial segment during its sixty-second session, in 2019, with a view to taking stock of the implementation of the commitments made in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

11. Also at its sixtieth session, the Commission decided to include U-47700 and butyrfentanyl in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The Commission also decided to include 4-MEC (4-methylethcathinone), ethylone, pentedrone, ethylphenidate, MPA (methiopropamine), MDMB-CHMICA, 5F-APINACA (5F-AKB-48) and XLR-11 in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. Furthermore, the

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.17.XI.6.

Commission decided to include 4-anilino-*N*-phenethylpiperidine (ANPP) and *N*-phenethyl-4-piperidone (NPP) in Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

12. The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the draft resolution entitled "Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and related commitments on alternative development and regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy addressing socioeconomic issues" for adoption by the General Assembly.

13. The Commission also adopted the following eight resolutions: resolution 60/2, entitled "Strengthening international cooperation to assist the States most affected by the illicit transit of drugs, especially developing countries, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility"; 60/3, entitled "Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: recommendations of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime"; 60/4, entitled "Preventing and responding to the adverse health consequences and risks associated with the use of new psychoactive substances"; 60/5, entitled "Increasing international coordination relating to precursors and non-scheduled precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances"; 60/6, entitled "Intensifying coordination and cooperation among United Nations entities and relevant domestic sectors, including the health, education and criminal justice sectors, to address and counter the world drug problem"; 60/7, entitled "Promoting scientific evidence-based community, family and school programmes and strategies for the purpose of preventing drug use among children and adolescents"; 60/8, entitled "Promoting measures to prevent HIV and other blood-borne diseases associated with the use of drugs, and increasing financing for the global HIV/AIDS response and for drug use prevention and other drug demand reduction measures"; 60/9, entitled "Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement, border control and other relevant agencies to counter illicit drug trafficking through training".

14. The Commission also adopted decision 60/1, entitled "Strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs", in which it decided to examine how its subsidiary bodies could better contribute to the implementation of the outcome document, inform its subsidiary bodies of the invitation contained in General Assembly resolution 71/211, and invite the subsidiary bodies to consider that invitation at their upcoming meetings and report back to the Commission in due course.

2. Action taken by the subsidiary bodies

15. Four meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2016: the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 19 to 23 September; the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago from 3 to 7 October; the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Colombo from 24 to 27 October; and the Fifty-first Session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Riyadh from 20 to 24 November.

16. The subsidiary bodies addressed issues of priority in drug law enforcement in their regions and reviewed progress made in the implementation of recommendations made at previous sessions. They also made recommendations to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including in the follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly.

B. Collaboration and coordination across the United Nations system

17. In the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, the Assembly reiterated the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the United Nations policymaking body with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and the role of UNODC as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem. At the same time, the Assembly encouraged the Commission and UNODC to further increase cooperation and collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities and international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, when assisting Member States in designing and implementing comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug strategies, policies and programmes.

18. In line with the comprehensive and inclusive approach applied throughout the preparatory process for the thirtieth special session, the Commission encourages relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions and relevant regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to actively contribute to the work of the Commission in follow-up to the special session. In addition, the Commission encourages those bodies to make available to it relevant information with a view to enhancing coherence within the United Nations system. A key mechanism in this regard is the website of the Commission relating to the special session (www.ungass2016.org), which is being transformed into a hub that facilitates the flow of knowledge among Member States and other stakeholders with a view to enabling them to learn from each other's experiences, develop a better understanding of the challenges and increase awareness of the tools that have yielded positive results. The Commission has also added an item on inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem to the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session.

19. UNODC also continued to strengthen its cooperation with other United Nations entities to support Member States in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document to the thirtieth special session. The Office signed a landmark memorandum of understanding with WHO in February 2017, further formalizing and enhancing the ongoing collaboration between the two offices with a view to further expanding the joint work in various areas.

20. At a meeting of the Executive Committee in April 2017, the Secretary-General tasked UNODC with working with OHCHR, UNAIDS, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), WHO, the Department for Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General on developing a set of actions with a view to assisting Member States with the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, in close coordination with the Commission, thereby promoting efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals as well as strategies to strengthen human rights-based and health-based approaches, and elaborating a comprehensive organization-wide strategy across the three founding pillars of the United Nations system — development, human rights, and peace and security — in support of the preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission, to be held in 2019.

21. Section IV below, which covers the thematic areas contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, reflects the input that UNODC has received from the following entities: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNAIDS, UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN-Women, WHO, the Department for Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs. Information is also included on the joint work that UNODC is undertaking with a number of other United Nations entities and specialized agencies, including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), OHCHR, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

(UN-Habitat), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, as well as with other intergovernmental organizations, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), and regional organizations, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of OAS. UNODC is also working with more than 400 non-governmental organizations worldwide in the implementation of its operational activities.

IV. Support for Member States in thematic areas

A. Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues

1. Prevention of drug abuse

22. UNODC continued to provide family skills training programmes to prevent drug use and other risky behaviours in eight countries. The Office started to develop a new evidence-based family skills programme for low-resource settings and for displaced populations. An evidence-based life skills education programme was organized in three countries, which involved the participation of 4,000 students aged 12 to 14 and led to a statistically significant reduction in the rates of initiation of substance use. Young people in low- and middle-income countries were mobilized through social networks and grants.

23. A new guidance document addressing substance use in the education sector, issued by UNODC with UNESCO and WHO, was launched at the sixtieth session of the Commission.

24. An expert group meeting was organized in June 2017 with a view to updating the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention. In addition to UNODC, the meeting involved the participation of CICAD, the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, EMCDDA, UNESCO and WHO.

25. The Office trained more than 60 policymakers and national stakeholders from more than 20 countries on the nature of drug use disorders and its policy implications, and also trained more than 450 policymakers from six countries on evidence-based prevention interventions that are based on the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention.

2. Treatment of drug use disorders, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration; prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne infectious diseases

26. Drug treatment, care and rehabilitation services were improved and expanded in 23 countries, in line with the UNODC/WHO international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, through training, technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation, and assessments utilizing the new UNODC/WHO facility survey. Activities included a feasibility study on the use of take-home naloxone for overdose prevention in countries of South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia. WHO initiated the eleventh revision of the *International Classification of Diseases*, to be issued in 2018, with a revised section on disorders due to alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours, and maintained its Global Information System on Resources for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders.

27. UNODC and WHO have initiated the development of new tools through the organization of expert working groups on treatment as an alternative to criminal justice sanctions, health-care responses to the use of new psychoactive substances in emergency settings, drug prevention and treatment in rural areas and quality assurance for treatment services. Other activities undertaken as part of the collaboration between UNODC and WHO include field testing of the international

standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, the identification and management of substance use and substance use disorders in pregnancy, normative guidance on the identification and management of disorders due to psychoactive drug use, including comorbidity with mental disorders. WHO also continued producing estimates of deaths and disability due to drug use disorders and estimates of the disease burden attributable to drug use.

28. UNODC continued to disseminate evidence on comprehensive, gender-responsive and human rights-based HIV prevention, treatment and support for people who use drugs in the community and in prisons, in line with the WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users. UNODC, WHO and UNAIDS also developed Implementing Comprehensive HIV and HCV Programmes with People Who Inject Drugs, containing practical advice on implementing HIV and hepatitis C programmes for people who inject drugs. UNODC published tools for relevant service providers on improving cooperation with law enforcement officials and on civil society engagement in comprehensive HIV and hepatitis C programmes for people who inject drugs. UNODC supported four countries in institutionalizing the *Technical Guide* in police academies to remove barriers for access to HIV and hepatitis C services.

29. UNODC, UNAIDS and WHO continued operating as a strategic advisory group to the United Nations and other partners on HIV and drug use. They also continued collaborating with partners, including civil society, on effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, including appropriate medication-assisted therapy programmes and injection equipment programmes, as well as antiretroviral therapy and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use. WHO continued setting norms and standards and developing guidelines on antiretroviral therapy and care, HIV testing services, prophylaxis of HIV infection and comprehensive HIV services for key populations.

B. Ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

30. The Office continued to implement and expand the joint global programme of UNODC, WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control on access to controlled drugs for medical purposes while preventing diversion and abuse. During the reporting period, technical assistance was provided through the Joint Global Programme to Ghana and Timor-Leste and was also initiated in Antigua and Barbuda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Panama.

31. Following the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States have been giving high priority to addressing barriers in order to increase access to essential controlled medicines, while preventing diversion, misuse and abuse. At the national level, the focus remained on creating an environment in which the patient's medical needs are the basis for pharmacological interventions, including appropriate medical use of the spectrum of pain medication.

C. Supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime, and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

1. Prevention of drug-related crime

32. UNODC continued to support Member States through the provision of technical assistance in the prevention of both drug-related crime and drug abuse, thereby

advocating for an integrated, multi-sector approach and highlighting the need for appropriate social policies. In Brazil, as part of its Global Programme on the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC piloted an evidence-informed initiative on youth crime and drug prevention that is aimed at fostering life skills through sport. In Ethiopia and Myanmar, UNODC assisted in the development of national crime prevention strategies that included measures to address social conditions associated with drug-related crime.

33. The work is carried out in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations agencies, including UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UN-Women and WHO. For example, UNODC is closely involved with WHO in the preparation of the forthcoming second edition of the Global Status Report on Violence Prevention. The report will include a status update on drug-related forms of violence, which will enable Member States to develop evidence-based responses aimed at prevention.

2. Countering illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

34. Pursuant to its mandates under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, UNODC provided technical assistance to Member States across all regions to support efforts to combat drug trafficking, strengthen border control and counter the laundering of the proceeds of crime. Focus was placed on supporting regional efforts to improve the coordination and sharing of information on transnational drug trafficking groups and on preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals.

35. Legislative assistance was provided to Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Kazakhstan, Peru and Ukraine in support of their review of national drug control legislation. UNODC completed work on redeveloping a mutual legal assistance request writer tool, which includes features on asset recovery, transfer of criminal proceedings, videoconferencing and joint investigations as well as an electronic-evidence module targeting cybercrime investigations.

36. UNODC supported cooperation among regional law enforcement agencies, including the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the joint planning cell of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan and the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime established operational links between international and regional law enforcement centres and organizations. It encourages cooperation in specialized training techniques and features a capacity-building initiative — the Law Enforcement Training Network, also known as LE TrainNet — that links law enforcement training institutions.

37. Together with WCO, UNODC is implementing the Container Control Programme SEA, addressing the security of maritime trade supply in order to prevent trafficking. The initiative has been adopted by 32 Member States in 50 ports. Significant quantities of drugs and precursor chemicals have been intercepted. In partnership with WCO and ICAO, the Container Control Programme AIR was launched in 2015 in seven countries to address the security of the supply chain in air cargo. The Airport Communication Project of UNODC, supported by WCO and INTERPOL, focuses on intercepting air passengers engaged in trafficking.

38. UNODC launched a criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation initiative (CRIMJUST) that targets the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa. Implemented with INTERPOL and Transparency International, this programme is delivering targeted assistance to criminal justice institutions in order to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate trafficking offences.

3. Addressing links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities; Promoting judicial cooperation

39. Through its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC helped build capacity for 75 requesting countries in nine subregions. Ongoing assistance by UNODC included training for the staff of judicial authorities, financial intelligence units, law enforcement authorities and customs, immigration and border control agencies.

40. UNODC continued to provide support to the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific, and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa. UNODC also provided substantive assistance to OAS to establish the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of the Caribbean.

41. UNODC developed a state-of-the-art cryptocurrency investigation train-the-trainers course, which is focused on developing a new set of skills that enhances collaboration between investigators, promotes an understanding of the cryptocurrency concept and encourages international cooperation on cryptocurrency cases.

42. UNODC also continued its work to update the website of the International Money-Laundering Information Network and to expand its Anti-Money-Laundering International Database.

43. In order to facilitate international cooperation, UNODC provided support for the establishment of informal networks of prosecutors and central authorities, including the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime and the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus.

44. UNODC, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office for West Africa, the Department for Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs continued their work on the West Africa Coast Initiative to combat transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. The Initiative supports the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Action Plan to address the growing problem of drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa. UNDP provides support to UNODC field operations in the roll-out of technical programmes. UNICRI and UNODC collaborate on initiatives to address elements of drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and related offences. In addition, UNODC works with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) on measures to address firearms control.

45. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) continued activities to promote more coherent support by the international community to the development and governance priorities of the Government of Afghanistan, in particular with regard to development, reconstruction and counternarcotics activities. UNAMA enhanced cooperation with UNODC in order to support the Government's efforts to improve governance and the rule of law, including transitional justice and the fight against corruption.

46. The Department of Political Affairs supported the establishment of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala, which published a report focused on the illegal financing of political parties, highlighting links with drug cartels. The Department of Political Affairs also reported on the fifth meeting of the mini-Dublin Group, an informal coordination group on countering illicit drugs, which was hosted by the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia in Ashgabat in June 2017.

D. Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities

1. Drugs and human rights, youth, women, children, vulnerable members of society and communities

47. The prevention initiatives of UNODC target vulnerabilities in the development of young people, thereby preventing not only drug and substance abuse, but also delinquency, violence, crime and other risky behaviours. UNODC, among others, continued to strengthen the provision of psychosocial services for children and youth exposed to drugs at a very young age in six countries. UN-Women implemented a community-based project entitled Planim Save Kamap Strongpela in Papua New Guinea, which included targeted training for young people that was focused on preventing self-harm and alcohol and drug abuse.

48. The UNODC/WHO international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders cover specific services for adolescents and for girls and women. UNODC and WHO also initiated the dissemination of the WHO guidelines on the management of substance use disorders among pregnant women in Latin America.

49. In the area of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, UNODC published a tool for relevant service providers on addressing the specific needs of women who inject drugs. UN-Women implemented a project in Kazakhstan to improve the gender responsiveness of the national HIV policy and strengthen the capacity of women living with HIV to become actors of change, in partnership with UNAIDS, and implemented projects for women living with HIV and using drugs in the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.

50. UNODC continued to support Member States in mainstreaming a gender perspective into justice-related aspects of drug policies, in conformity with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). UNODC also continued to support Member States in implementing age-appropriate practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations standards and norms on justice for children, in Cabo Verde, Colombia and Uruguay.

51. UNODC, UN-Women, OHCHR, UNDP and others are developing a manual for practitioners on women's access to justice programming, which includes a focus on the gender dimension of the world drug problem and guidance to make justice systems and responses more gender-sensitive. The UN-Women programme in Egypt on freedom from drugs and HIV improved the family and community life of people accused of sexual harassment, leading to a reduction in violence against women and recidivism in those communities.

52. UNDP engaged in research publications on drug control and human rights and is in the process of working on the development of international guidelines on human rights and drug control, in cooperation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and other entities.

2. Proportionate and effective policies and responses

53. UNODC, together with WHO, organized a meeting of experts from approximately 30 countries to exchange experiences on effective strategies for treatment and care as alternatives to conviction or punishment for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system. A handbook aimed at mapping existing experiences and good practices in this area is currently under development, in collaboration with WHO. In six countries, UNODC supported partnerships between the police and civil society organizations implementing HIV services for people who use drugs with a view to developing and implementing police referral schemes as alternatives to incarceration.

54. UNODC and UNDP launched the global study on legal aid, which addresses the needs of vulnerable groups, including drug users and persons living with HIV and other serious contagious diseases, to gain meaningful access to legal aid.

55. To assist States in addressing the security problems affecting prisons that hold prisoners associated with organized crime, drug trafficking rings and terrorism, UNODC developed the Handbook on the Management of High Risk Prisoners and the Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons.

E. Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments

1. Addressing new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants, the diversion of precursors and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals

56. The challenge of detecting and identifying new psychoactive substances poses a major obstacle to effective health and treatment interventions and law enforcement efforts. The emergence of fentanyl analogues has also been associated with a rising numbers of overdose events, including fatal intoxications, among opioid users. At the third UNODC-WHO expert consultation on new psychoactive substances, held on 3 and 4 May 2016, practical ways for collecting robust data for the prioritization and review of the most harmful, prevalent and persistent new psychoactive substances at the international level were explored. Information on the prioritization of new psychoactive substances was provided to WHO for the review of substances at the thirty-eighth meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.

57. The global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme continues to support existing research, collection and scientific analysis of data related to synthetic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances. The UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances continues to provide the basis for effective evidence-based policy responses and collaboration with national, regional and international partners, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction as well as WHO and its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence. The UNODC expert consultation on forensic toxicology and drug control, held in June 2016, discussed practical ways of collecting and sharing toxicology- and health-related data, which will feed into the early warning advisory.

58. Taking into consideration the operational recommendations of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, UNODC continued its efforts to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of national laboratories and promote collaboration for the detection and identification of drugs, including new psychoactive substances, through the development of manuals and guidelines on procedural approaches. Such efforts included the development of analytical methodologies to address laboratory challenges in the identification of newly scheduled drugs, such as fentanyl analogues; the use of respective UNODC reference standards; and the international collaborative exercise for national laboratories and assistance activities, in which 221 laboratories from 69 Member States participated. Scientific support was provided to law enforcement agencies to detect and identify new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, and tools and training were provided to countries in South-East Asia.

2. New trends, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, data collection and research

59. Assistance in the monitoring of illicit crops and production was provided to the following Member States in 2016: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru for the monitoring of coca bush cultivation; and Afghanistan, Mexico and Myanmar for the monitoring of opium poppy cultivation. Assistance was also provided for carrying out a cannabis survey in Nigeria. Within the framework of the Afghan opiates trade project, an assessment was initiated of the trafficking of Afghan opiates through Central Asia to the Russian Federation.

60. UNODC provided support in the design and implementation of drug use surveys in Myanmar and Nigeria. UNODC is also providing support to Afghanistan and neighbouring countries in the design of drug use surveys for young people, to be implemented over the course of 2017.

61. UNODC continued to collaborate with a number of international and regional entities in the delivery of drug-related research activities. Joint UNODC-WHO-UNAIDS-World Bank estimates were produced in 2017 on people who inject drugs, including those with HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. A coordination working group was established in 2016 by WHO and UNODC on epidemiological data on drugs, which included the participation of the African Union; CICAD; ECOWAS; EMCDDA; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the Pompidou Group and UNAIDS. The purpose of the working group was to strengthen the coordination and harmonization of international efforts on drug epidemiology data through discussion and review of methodological issues and by exploring ways to complement existing statistical activities, including data collection and capacity-building activities. WHO continued to provide technical support for national monitoring efforts using its population-based surveillance approaches and health service-based monitoring tools and continued to provide estimates concerning the disease burden attributable to drug use disorders.

F. Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

62. In the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States highlighted the need to strengthen specialized, targeted, effective and sustainable technical assistance, including, where appropriate, adequate financial assistance, training, capacity-building, equipment and technological know-how, to requesting countries, including transit countries, through and in cooperation with UNODC, as well as with WHO and other relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to assist Member States to effectively address the health, socioeconomic, human rights, justice and law enforcement aspects of the world drug problem.

63. In its resolution 60/1 on preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2019, the Commission requested UNODC to enhance, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, technical assistance in consultation with requesting Member States and in cooperation with other relevant United Nations entities and stakeholders. The Commission intends to focus on technical assistance needs and capacities in the next round of thematic discussions on the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document, which will be held in the second half of 2017. UNODC has developed an awareness-raising workshop that can assist Member States in identifying technical assistance needs and in making a self-assessment with respect to the implementation of the operational recommendations.

64. With reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Commission submitted a substantive contribution, on the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world", for consideration at the meeting of the

high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017. In this regard, the Commission also strengthened its cooperation with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Social Development.

G. Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues

65. UNODC continued to work closely with Member States to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and related operational recommendations of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly. The Office has been organizing, together with Germany and Thailand, a series of expert group meetings. The first meeting, held in Bangkok from 28 to 30 November 2016, was attended by Member State officials, alternative development experts and representatives of civil society, who discussed how to broaden the scope of development within the international drug control framework. In response to requests from States, UNODC, in partnership with Germany and Thailand, will explore ways to implement alternative development in the area of cultivation of cannabis.

66. Technical assistance provided by UNODC to Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru continued to focus on improving the socioeconomic situation of rural farming communities and sustainably reducing illicit crop cultivation. Work in long-term cash crops in Myanmar resulted in the first-ever harvest of high-quality coffee. In Colombia, environmental conservation related to alternative development was strengthened.

67. UNODC started working on a methodology to improve impact assessments of alternative development projects in the follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, with a view to better integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into such assessments.

V. Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

68. During the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Member States decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC (FINGOV) until the first half of 2021, and adopted a resolution providing guidance to its future work. FINGOV continued to play an important role as a forum for discussions in areas such as strategic and budgetary matters, evaluation, oversight, programme development and implementation, the financial situation of the Office and strengthening human resources governance.

69. UNODC has actively worked towards realigning its global, regional and country programme portfolio to make explicit links between its technical cooperation efforts and specific goals and targets under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Particular emphasis is being placed on including standard indicators and targets as part of the Office's approach to results-based management, allowing the programme portfolio to showcase how it contributes to Member State efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

70. In 2016, the Office launched four new regional programmes (Arab States, Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, Eastern Africa and West Africa); a new country programme in Indonesia and a new global programme on corruption. In addition, two regional programmes, four country programmes and two global

programmes were extended, bringing the total to 19 regional and country programmes and 49 global programmes.

71. The Independent Evaluation Unit evaluates the portfolio of UNODC according to universal standards and norms, with a focus on gender and human rights, and cooperates with audits to ensure efficiencies in oversight. Although a professional peer review of the evaluation function reflected impressive progress since 2010, further investments are crucial to strengthen accountability in UNODC. The evaluation function of UNODC completed in-depth evaluations of three global programmes and 16 projects, and published and actively disseminated them. The Unit also engaged in supporting Member States in strengthening national evaluation capacity in line with the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 69/237 and the 2030 Agenda.

72. In 2016, pledges for voluntary contributions to UNODC reached $297 million, the largest donors being the United States of America, Colombia, the European Union, Japan and Panama. General-purpose contributions declined further, to $3.9 million (1.3 per cent of total voluntary contributions), and were provided mainly by Germany, Sweden and the United States.

73. The financial situation of UNODC remains vulnerable, with the decline in unearmarked funds continuing and the share of regular budget funds amounting to 5.9 per cent of the revised consolidated budget for 2016-2017, which totals $642.9 million. These low levels of unearmarked funding represent a key challenge to the strategic and effective implementation of the mandates of UNODC, putting a strain on management, coordination and normative functions.

74. The consolidated budget for the biennium 2016-2017 builds on the lessons learned since the launch of the funding model of full cost recovery, namely, the need to cost programme delivery transparently, fairly and consistently; to use funding sources for their intended purposes; and to seek ways to realize cost efficiencies. The continued implementation of full cost recovery in the biennium 2016-2017 remains essential for ensuring the financial sustainability of the Office.

75. In 2016, UNODC continued the implementation of major initiatives to strengthen the accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of programme execution, including the Secretariat-wide enterprise resource planning system, Umoja, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and the Framework of Engagement of External Parties and Enterprise Risk Management.

VI. Recommendations

76. It is recommended that the General Assembly consider taking the following actions:

(a) Reiterate its call upon Member States to implement the international drug control conventions, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem;

(b) Reiterate its call upon Member States take the necessary steps to implement the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations

with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations;

(c) Call upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with partner United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders, to enhance its technical assistance to Member States with a view to promoting comprehensive, coherent and balanced responses to effectively address and counter the world drug problem;

(d) Call upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with partner United Nations entities and other stakeholders, to assist Member States in ensuring that their implementation of the international drug control conventions and the international human rights instruments, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, are mutually reinforcing and supportive;

(e) Call upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with partner United Nations entities and other stakeholders, to promote technical cooperation with the aim of achieving the necessary capacity among Member States to consistently monitor and properly report on elements of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that contribute to addressing the world drug problem;

(f) Call on all relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions and relevant regional organizations as well as other stakeholders, all within their respective mandates, to actively contribute to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to enhance cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

Prevention, treatment and other health-related issues

(g) Call on Member States to expand the coverage and quality of drug prevention and treatment interventions, in line with the standards and guidelines published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization;

(h) Enhance national health systems to ensure access to controlled drugs for medical purposes, while preventing diversion and abuse, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other international and civil society organizations;

Responses to drug-related crime, countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

(i) Call on Member States to provide each other with the widest possible mutual legal assistance as provided for under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

(j) Call on Member States, when investigating the crimes of money-laundering, to also conduct parallel financial investigations and to follow the money trails, with the ultimate aim of depriving criminals of the proceeds of crime through confiscation measures;

(k) Call on Member States to further strengthen regional, interregional and international cooperation in addressing and dismantling drug trafficking and organized crime networks through, inter alia, enhanced exchange of information and intelligence and joint operations;

Cross-cutting issues

(l) Urge Member States to ensure non-discriminatory access to quality health, care and social services in prevention, care and treatment programmes, including those offered to persons in prison or pretrial detention, on a level equal

to those available in the community, and ensure that women have access to adequate health services and counselling, including those particularly needed during pregnancy;

(m) Call upon Member States to develop, adopt and implement alternatives to conviction or punishment in cases of an appropriate nature, and to promote proportionate national sentencing policies, practices and guidelines for drug-related offences, in accordance with the international drug control conventions and using relevant United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

(n) Urge Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into their policies and programmes related to the world drug problem, in order to ensure that health, social, justice and other relevant services are gender-sensitive, and collaborate to eliminate gender-based discrimination and to meet the specific needs and circumstances of women;

(o) Urge Member States to implement age-appropriate practical measures, tailored to the specific needs of children, in the legislative, administrative, social, economic, cultural and educational sectors, including measures to provide them with opportunities for healthy and self-sustained lives, in order to prevent their abuse of controlled drugs, and address their involvement, use and exploitation in the illicit cultivation of crops and the production, manufacturing and trafficking of controlled drugs;

New trends in addressing and countering the world drug problem, including new psychoactive substances

(p) Urge Member States to report data and information related to illicit drug trends regularly and in a timely manner to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through mandated data collection tools, in particular the annual report questionnaire and the individual drug seizure reports;

(q) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to inform the international community on the latest trends and threats related to the drug problem, including through the annual World Drug Report;

(r) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States through the development of methodological guidelines and the delivery of capacity-building programmes to strengthen institutional capacity in order to monitor the drug situation with regard to illicit drug cultivation and alternative development, drug production, trafficking, and drug use and related harm, as well as on access to pain medication with a view to increasing their capacity to have evidence-informed policies and programmes;

(s) Urge Member States to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its drug-related research and capacity-building efforts;

(t) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen the forensic capacity of Member States to identify the recently scheduled substances in seized material and biological samples in support of evidence-based policy development;

(u) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue collaboration with national, regional and international partners in monitoring new psychoactive substances with respect to their composition, production, distribution and patterns of use, and encourage Member States to share relevant data and information with regard to patterns of use, risks to public health, forensic data and the regulation of new psychoactive substances using the web-based early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances;

International cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy, including alternative development and addressing socioeconomic issues

(v) Promote South-South cooperation with a view to sharing best practices and lessons learned and to facilitate market access for products stemming from alternative development;

(w) Recommend that Member States improve impact assessment of alternative development and incorporate the necessary monitoring and assessment tools when designing alternative development programmes;

Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(x) Encourage Member States to continue to actively participate in the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(y) Call on Member States to support the implementation of the recommendations of the peer review in order to ensure strengthened accountability in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as well as a strengthened evaluation function, to enable it to fully implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner, also in the context of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, delivering key accountability services and products with a clear focus on gender and human rights;

(z) Urge Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with adequate, predictable and stable resources, including additional regular budget resources, to enable it to implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner;

(aa) Urge Member States to provide greater general purpose (unearmarked) and soft-earmarked funding to enable the Office to effectively respond to the increasing demand for technical assistance and to continue its technical cooperation with partner entities, regional bodies and requesting countries worldwide.